

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
U.S. Congressman Ken Calvert

*Remarks on Hearing on H.R. 798,
the Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2005*

March 3, 2005
10:00 AM
2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Thank you, sir.

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to have joined you as an original sponsor to Mr. Gordon's bill - H.R. 798, the Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2005. Mr. Gordon, I thank you for bringing this very important issue to the committee's attention. I know the Committee's Majority and Minority staffs have diligently worked together since last year to develop and revise this legislation.

As a Co-Chairman of the 100 plus member Congressional Caucus to Fight and Control Methamphetamine, I know the growing meth problem in this nation shows no deference to district or party-line. This is an issue everyone can agree is wreaking havoc on our communities across the nation. As

mentioned by the Chairman and Ranking Member, H.R. 798 focuses its efforts on the procedures and standards needed to decontaminate a site where a methamphetamine lab is found so our communities can more thoroughly remediate these sites which will protect our citizens and ensure the health of the environment.

In my area of Riverside, California, methamphetamine production has reached epidemic proportions with many of these labs having the distinction of being labeled superlabs – these are labs that are capable of producing over ten pounds of finished methamphetamine per batch. One such lab which was seized in 2003 operated out of a barn in a rural area of Riverside County and produced over 6,000 pounds of finished product with a street resale value of over \$33 Million dollars. Over 4 million pounds of contaminated toxic soil had to be removed with heavy equipment, costing in excess of \$226,000. Officials from the California Department of Toxic Substance Control has called this the most difficult and costly methamphetamine lab clean up in California's history.

So as you can see this is a distressing issue which my region, and quite frankly, most of America is becoming all too familiar with. Our state and local agencies need all the resources and tools that we can provide them with in their efforts to address this problem. Although we are all aware that much more needs to be done to win the fight against this devastating drug, I am optimistic H.R. 789 will be a good start in that fight and will be welcomed by our communities.

I thank the expert witnesses for being here today and I look forward to hearing your testimony. I trust you will further enlighten us all on the severity of the current methamphetamine remediation problem and hope you will provide us with some constructive feedback on our legislation.

I am truly proud that the Science Committee is doing its part in the fight against methamphetamine by tackling those aspects that fall within our committee's

jurisdiction. And with that I want to thank Mr. Gordon again and thank you Mr. Chairman.